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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/070,705	03/12/2002	Yasuyuki Tamaki	220334US2PCT	7591
22850	7590	11/03/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			DUONG, THOI V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/070,705

Applicant(s)

TAMAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Thoi V Duong

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-15 ~~is/are~~ are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-15 ~~is/are~~ are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 14, 2004 has been entered.

Accordingly, claim 9 was amended, and claims 1-8 were cancelled. Currently, claims 9-15 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 9-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 9, 10, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda (USPN 6,204,898 B1) in view of Kita et al. (JP 11007000 A) and Moon (USPN 6,795,135 B1).**

Re claims 9 and 15, as shown in Fig. 1, Maeda discloses a liquid crystal display 1, comprising:

a liquid crystal panel 6; and

a light unit 7 including light source means 2 and an optical guide plate 3 directing light beams emitted from said light source means to said liquid crystal panel,

wherein said optical guide plate is arranged on a display surface side of said liquid crystal panel so that light beams emitted from said light source means are directed to said liquid crystal panel.

Fig. 11 of Maeda illustrates a portable telephone comprising a bottom case 25 provided with the liquid crystal display 1 and a top case 26 (col. 9, lines 41-49).

Accordingly, the bottom case is a liquid crystal panel holding member holding said liquid crystal panel therein and the top case 26 is a frame member encasing said light source means and the optical guide plate.

Re claim 10, the frame member 26 has a window as surrounding frame area extending on a surface side of said optical guide plate, to define a display screen of said liquid crystal panel.

Re claim 14, the frame member 26 has a holding frame for holding a microphone 32 (circuit component).

However, Maeda does not disclose a means for engaging said liquid crystal panel holding member and said frame member, and said frame member including a lip configured to hold said light source means and the optical guide plate) as recited in re claims 9 and 15.

As shown in Fig. 1, Kita et al. discloses a housing member comprising a bottom case 130 for fitting a liquid crystal panel 120 and a top case 110. The bottom case and the top case are provided with holes 131, 132 and hooks 111, 112 respectively as means for engaging and relative positioning with each other (Abstract and Detail Description, paragraph 18).

Meanwhile, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, Moon discloses a light unit 12 including light source means 1 and an optical guide plate (or light waveguide plate) 3 directing light beams emitted from said light source means to a liquid crystal panel 4 (see also Fig. 1 and col. 1, lines 34-40), wherein said light unit 12 has a frame member 15a including a lip (or guide rail) 13 configured to hold said light source means 1 and the optical guide plate 3 (col. 3, line 61 through col. 4, line 6). Moon discloses that the light unit can be removed from the frame member when the ambient light is used so as to prevent the disadvantageous surface reflection and lowering of reflective brightness and the additional weight of the light unit when the light unit is not used (col. 5, lines 54-63).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the bottom case and the top case of Maeda with the teachings of Kita et al. and Moon by forming engaging means for easy assembly and improving positioning (Kita, Abstract) and a frame member including a lip for holding the light unit for users' convenience (Moon, col. 5, lines 54-63).

5. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda (USPN 6,204,898 B1) in view of Kita et al. (JP 11007000 A) and Moon

(USPN 6,795,135 B1) as applied to claims 9, 10, 14 and 15 above and further in view of Takamori et al. (JP 06-265922).

Maeda further discloses that a circuit board 34 and an IC (electronic components) are provided at the liquid crystal panel holding member 25 as shown in Fig. 11 (col. 9, lines 47-51). The liquid crystal display of Maeda as modified in view of Kita et al. above includes all that is recited in claims 11-13 except for the frame member having a shield frame area covering an electronic component and a ground potential setting means for setting the frame member to a ground potential.

As shown in Figs. 1(a)-1(c), Takamori et al. discloses a metallic shield frame SHD having a projecting part CV (as ground potential setting means) electrically connected to a ground pad FGP formed on a printed circuit board PCB via a conductive rubber layer ECG (Abstract).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the liquid crystal display of Maeda with the teaching of Takamori et al. by forming a frame member having a shield area covering electronic component and a ground potential setting means for setting said frame member to a ground potential so as to prevent short-circuit and enhance assembly workability (Abstract).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thoi V. Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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2292. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim, can be reached at (571) 272-2293.

Thoi Duong



10/27/2004



ROBERT H. KIM
SUPERVISOR EXAMINER
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